

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 72

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE EXECUTIVE TASK FORCE ON DISABILITY  
EMPLOYMENT DEVELOP POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES TO  
INCREASE THE EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN STATE  
GOVERNMENT.

WHEREAS, there are more than three hundred thirty-eight  
thousand New Mexicans with disabilities, and the employment  
rate of persons with disabilities remains unacceptably low  
compared with the employment rate of the general population in  
New Mexico and nationally; and

WHEREAS, all New Mexicans are entitled to an opportunity  
to be gainfully employed and to contribute to society, their  
community and their personal well-being; and

WHEREAS, our society places a high value on work but does  
not provide adequate accessibility for persons with

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1 disabilities to participate in the work force; and

2 WHEREAS, persons with disabilities often face significant  
3 barriers to accessing meaningful and gainful employment due to  
4 the shortage of support services needed by many persons with  
5 disabilities in the work place; and

6 WHEREAS, there are employment services that offer proven,  
7 effective support to persons with disabilities who want to join  
8 the work force; and

9 WHEREAS, employed persons with disabilities contribute  
10 significantly to the state's economy and revenues; and

11 WHEREAS, state government should promote partnerships and  
12 collaborations among state agencies and the private sector to  
13 ensure the effective use of resources; and

14 WHEREAS, Governor Bill Richardson created the executive  
15 task force on disability employment, an interagency work group,  
16 to develop policies and procedures to facilitate the increased  
17 employment of persons with disabilities throughout state  
18 government; and

19 WHEREAS, the governor's commission on disability, the  
20 vocational rehabilitation division of the public education  
21 department, the labor department, the governor's office of  
22 workforce training and development, the commission for deaf and  
23 hard-of-hearing persons, the special education bureau of the  
24 public education department, the aging and long-term services  
25 department, the state personnel office, the commission for

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1 community volunteerism, the commission for the blind and the  
2 developmental disabilities planning council have developed a  
3 proposal for increasing the employment of persons with  
4 disabilities within state government; and

5 WHEREAS, the state has an interest in increasing the  
6 employment of persons with disabilities, because employment  
7 allows them to exit state-funded services and assistance  
8 programs; and

9 WHEREAS, the governor has challenged municipalities, other  
10 government entities and the business community to increase the  
11 employment of persons with disabilities;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
13 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the executive task force on disability  
14 employment be directed to develop policies, procedures and  
15 guidelines that can be utilized by state agencies to recruit,  
16 hire, retain and promote persons with disabilities for state  
17 government positions; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state entities and  
19 agencies follow these policies, procedures and guidelines to  
20 recruit, hire, retain and promote persons with disabilities for  
21 state government positions; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the executive task force on  
23 disability employment report the policies, procedures and  
24 guidelines it develops to the appropriate interim legislative  
25 committee prior to the second session of the forty-seventh

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legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be transmitted to the members of the executive task force on disability employment.